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SHALEGASOUTRAGE.ORG

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Why Shale Gas Outrage Filled Philadelphia Streets
Protesters from shale gas “sacrifice zones” and downstream protest industry conference, pressing for bans and moratoria to “Stop Fracking Now”

Philadelphia, PA – People from throughout Pennsylvania and the shale regions of neighboring New York, Ohio, West Virginia and beyond, along with downstreamers from Maryland and Delaware, joined together to protest the Marcellus Shale Coalition’s industry convention in downtown Philadelphia today, making a unified statement to Stop Fracking Now.

Shale Gas Outrage rallied from 12:00 to 2:00 PM outside the Convention Center on Arch Street, led by Protecting Our Waters and endorsed by over 45 organizations, all calling for a moratorium on shale gas development wherever it is occurring. Speakers included Josh Fox, Bill McKibben, Maya van Rossum, Sandra Steingraber, Stephen Cleghorn, Stewart Acuff, Wes Gillingham, John Scorsone, Wenonah Hauter, David Masur, Doug Shields, and members of Pennsylvania communities impacted by gas extraction and development –Tammy Manning and her granddaughter Madison from Susquehanna County; farmers Carol French and Carolyn Knapp from Bradford County; Craig Stevens of Susquehanna County; Mary Rodriguez, a nurse from Luzerne County; and Kevin Heatley, an ecologist from Lycoming County. Musical talent also contributed to the day: Rhetta Morgan, singer from Philadelphia; Spiritchild from Brooklyn, singer song writer Zach Freidhof, and Pennsylvania guitarist Freebo.

The high-energy rally was followed by a boisterous march through the streets of the city, stopping at four locations to bring the message of Stop Fracking Now: President Barack Obama’s election campaign headquarters (for sustainable and clean energy instead of shale gas and fossil fuels), PNC Bank (heavily invested in gas development), and Governor Tom Corbett’s office (for a statewide moratorium and to

stop polluting our communities and environment), and the PA Chamber of Commerce (has opposed regulating greenhouse gas emissions and aggressively promotes shale gas exports overseas).

At 5:00 pm today, a Blessing of the Waters, an interfaith event, will take place at Arch Street Methodist Church, Broad and Arch Streets, Philadelphia.

"As the impacted people with fouled water, polluted air and threatened livelihoods have shown today, shale gas drilling is inherently contaminating. Families should not be forced to live with such dangers and harms. The best way to stem the tide of displacement, degraded ecosystems and climate catastrophe is to stop fracking now and divest our support from the fossil fuel industry. We are taking the morally responsible position, out of necessity, for our government has turned a deaf ear to these vital concerns," said Iris Marie Bloom, Executive Director, Protecting Our Waters and lead organizer, Shale Gas Outrage.

The Shale Gas Outrage rally program featured the hardships and suffering that people and communities are experiencing in shale country. A broad spectrum of constituencies came together to make a clear a unified statement to solve the horrific problems that are facing communities – pollution and degradation from shale gas development, including drilling, fracking, infrastructure and all related gas operations. That statement from Shale Gas Outrage and those who took part today offers a positive and reachable solution and one that makes eminent sense when the facts are truly considered – Stop Fracking Now by instituting a shale gas extraction moratorium.

On Thursday, Sept. 21, participants will attend the Health Impacts Symposium at College of Physicians of Philadelphia 19. S. 22nd St. Philadelphia, PA. Shale Gas Outrage is screening Kirsi Jansa's Gas Rush Films from 1 – 2 at Friends Center, followed by strategy sessions.

For a complete list of endorsing organizations and steering committee members go to: <http://shalegasoutrage.org/coalition/>

For photos and stories about the Rally and March and the events to come in the next day and a half go to: <http://shalegasoutrage.org/>

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